

**ABSTRACT**

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10 To achieve an improved support for introduction of  
server pools in packet networks and further to achieve  
transparency for applications, the present invention  
provides a communication apparatus running a protocol  
stack implementation for interworking between a  
signaling source node and a signaling target node. The  
communication apparatus comprises a first protocol  
15 implementation unit (SCTP) adapted to run a signaling  
control layer on top of a packet transfer network (IP)  
for exchange of signaling messages via at least one  
signaling association. Further, the communication  
apparatus comprises a second protocol implementation  
20 unit (SUA, M3UA) adapted to run a user adaptation layer  
on top of the signaling control layer (SCTP) for support  
of signaling connection control services (RANAP) used by  
the signaling source node. A name mapping unit is  
adapted to receive a signaling target node name from the  
25 signaling source node and to map the signaling target  
node name into a peer signaling association.

(Fig. 3)